

ARP ON SUICIDES

It is a Rare Event Among the Negroes.

SAYS THEY HAVE NO REMORSE

Old "Uncle Lewis" - Pistol and Poison Should Not Be So Handy.

The rapid increase of suicides in the south is alarming and provokes the serious study of our thinking people. Fifty years ago a suicide was a rare event among the white race, and never heard of among the negroes. When it did occur, it was considered an evidence of insanity. I do not recall but one instance in my youth and that was a woman who jumped into a deep well when no help was within reach. But nowadays almost every daily paper contains an account of one or more self-murders, and even negroes have taken the infection, for they will imitate every vice and frailty of the whites. Old Lewis, who is my wood chopper, asked me the other day how it was that the white folks kill "derselves" so much, and "de niggers didnt." "Because," said I, "white folks are more easily overcome with grief, or remorse or distress, than negroes. You negroes don't borrow trouble, nor take it hard when it does come. You don't give yourselves much anxiety about to-morrow, or next week, or next year. You don't grieve long over a death in the family; your emotional nature is of a low grade; your marriage relation is loose; in fact, it is on the decline since freedom came. The marriage records show that your legal marriage are 60 per cent. less, according to population, than in the white race, and the divorce gets less and less every year. Your young men and women don't marry; they just take up and quit when they please, and so the men don't care very much about the welfare of their children, if they have any. Besides all this, Uncle Lewis' your race has a trait of stealing little things, and this accounts in a great measure for their indifference to the future, laying up of something for the winter, or for old age. If the worst comes to the worst, they know they can steal or beg. If your young folks men and women, haven't got out a dollar in the world, they will spend it for a watermelon, or an excursion, and take the chances. Now, Uncle Lewis you remember when there wasn't a chaingang in the south, nor a heinous crime nor a brutal outrage, committed by your people, from the Potomac river to the Rio Grande. Now there are in Georgia alone over 4,000 of you people in the chaingangs, and there would be 4,000 more if all the little stealings were punished." Uncle Lewis had stopped cutting and was leaning on his ax helve. "Dat's all so," and he, "and boss I knows it, and boss what I wants to know is dis: What must we poor niggers do about it?" There is the rub. I couldn't tell him but I did say, "Uncle Lewis, your race has got some mighty good traits, and I like to have you about us; you are kind-hearted, good-natured, easy to please, and don't carry malice or revenge in your hearts; you steal, but you don't cheat anybody. The white race won't steal, but they will cheat, or take advantage in a trade, and that is worse. If you trust a negro with anything he will not abuse your confidence, but a white man will enrage and defraud and even the cashiers of banks will appropriate the bank's money, and falsify the books for months and years. Every race has its race traits, both bad and good. Some of your bad ones were almost run out by slavery, but they have come back again, and all your college education does not stop it. It makes it worse. There is nothing will stop it but work, constant work, every day under some good employer. Work on the farm is your best safeguard, or work as mechanics under good contractors. Your people make good mechanics, and the white people employ them and patronize them just as willingly as they do white mechanics. The negro blacksmiths and masons get good employment here and every where, and as for cooking and washing and nursing, your women have it all. The two races would fit together nicely if it wasn't for politics and idleness. An idle negro is a dangerous creature and should be taken up and put to work. He is much more dangerous than an idle white man, for he has no shame, and fears not God nor regard man. If I were a law-maker, I would make continued idleness a crime, as Ben Franklin says, "It is the parent of vice."

I started to write about suicides, but got to preaching Uncle Lewis a sermon and got off the track. Nineteen hundred years ago Plutarch, the Greek historian, said that self-murder was cowardice, for a brave man would suffer rather than take the life that God gave him. Self-murder was a heinous crime under the old English law. The estate of the felon was confiscated, and taken away from his family. His body was buried on the highway without a coffin and a sharp stake thrust through it to mark the accursed spot. Suicide was under the ban of the church, and no prayers were said for his soul. In no civilized country has suicide been justified, except in such cases as that of Saul, who fell on his sword because, as he said, "Last these uncircumcised Philistines thrust me through and abuse me." Or perhaps that other notable case the

scriptures record, that of Judas, whose remorse was so dreadful he preferred hell or anything that would be a change. But generally it is "better to endure the ills we have, than fly to those we know not of." Almost every day we read of young men and young women killing themselves because of disappointment or dissipation, or about love or money. They must believe there is no hereafter, or all punishment ends with this life. Surely no Christian man or woman would think of self-murder. Wait, wait, young man, young woman, wait, I say—suffer and be strong; only cowards kill themselves. The soul is locked up in this easel and God only has the key. Wait and trust Him. Remorse for a great crime may atone somewhat for self-murder. Miss Morrison might have killed herself after she killed her rival, and it would have seemed heroic. When Othello discovered his great mistake in killing Desdemona, his penitence was grand as he said, "I took the circumcised dog by the throat and smote him thus," and then stabbed himself and died, for, as Shakespeare says, "He was great of heart." In ancient Greece and Rome their notable warriors sometimes killed themselves, rather than suffer the stings of defeat in battle. In Japan military officers commit what is called harakari (ripping open the abdomen) to avoid personal disgrace. But in our land the pistol or poison has superseded all other means of suicide. It would save thousands of lives if the pistol was abolished by law. Not one should be allowed in any household; they are entirely too convenient for murder or suicide or robbery or revenge. And the sale of poison should be so regulated that no one could buy it except upon the most careful inquiry as to its intended use. Human life is too sacred to be endangered by pistols and poison for as St. Paul says, "We are made in the image of God."

Well, we see that Mr. Crumpicker, or Stumpsucker, or some such name, from Indiana, has opened the ball at Washington with his usual screech owl howl against the south. He was in such a malignant hurry that he got in the first bill, and it is to reduce the representation of the south in congress. He reminds me of Haman, whose stomach would not digest his food as long as he saw Mordecai sitting at the king's gate. He has begun to build a gallows for us. Let him beware, for it was Haman who was hanged. Some of these rabid republicans remind me of old Sato, the Roman censor, who hated the Carthaginians so bad that he never voted on any question in the Roman senate without adding, "And I also vote that Carthage be destroyed." But nobody cares; we will yet have a schoolbook commission in every southern state. The south is moving right along in spite of northern insults and northern literature. I see that "Barbara Fritch" is to be played in Atlanta. I wonder if that dramatic he will be patronized by any self-respecting southern man or woman? Many years ago a yankee troupe came to Rome with "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and we egged them out of town. That's what we done. They may abuse us from afar off, but they shan't come down here and rub it in.—Bill Arp in Atlanta Constitution.

Murderer Shot by an Officer. At South Seattle, Wash., William Seaton murdered his sister and two children and then chopped off his uncle's head with an ax. The murderer was shot by an officer while resisting arrest. He admits his crime.

China to Eat Our Potatoes. The first large shipment of potatoes that has gone forward from the State of Washington to China was sent from North Yakima and consisted of 500 tons destined for Shanghai.

Four Boys Publicly Lashed. Four boys were publicly whipped at Evansville, Ind., by their parents, as ordered by Judge Winfrey. The boys had stolen a barrel of apples from a freight car. The parents used an old bicycle tire on the youngsters, whose names are Walter Snyder, fourteen; Oille C. Geizer, thirteen; Roy Allison, nine, and Gerhold Yost, ten.

Warm Weather Affects Lumber Trade. Lumbering operations in Minnesota are at a standstill on account of the warm weather, and unless cold weather sets in soon lumbermen will be heavy losers.

Tried Suicide at Same Time. Anna Lambert, twenty-two years old, and William Metgerky, a teamster, both of St. Louis, Mo., had a sweethearts' quarrel and each took carbolic acid in separate parts of the city and reached the City Hospital at about the same time. Antidotes were applied, and both will recover.

Spanish Order For 600 Cars. The American Car and Foundry Company, of Detroit, Mich., has received an order for 600 cars for the Northern Spain Railway. The contract was to be filled by March 1.

Rejects Appointment as Senator. C. A. Smith, a wealthy Swedish-American lumberman, of Minneapolis, Minn., and a Republican, has declined the informal offer of Governor Lind, a Fusionist, to appoint him Senator to succeed the late Cushman K. Davis.

Murder of a Wisconsin Lumberman. George Furbush, one of the best known lumbermen in Wisconsin, was found dead in the road near Ashland, with a bullet in his head. He was murdered.

LAWYER KILLS MINISTER

S. D. Stokes Shot the Rev. J. H. Wohl in a Street Duel.

RESULT OF A STARTLING SERMON

The Tragedy Occurred at Williamson, W. Va. — Minister Passed the Lie and First Drew His Revolver—As the Lawyer Fell Seriously Wounded He Shot and Killed His Assailant.

Huntington, W. Va. (Special).—At Williamson, the county seat of Mingo County, W. Va., S. Davis Stokes shot and instantly killed the Rev. John H. Wohl, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, in a street duel. The tragedy was the outcome of a sensational sermon filled with the spirit of reform. Mr. Wohl determined to put a stop to the many dances given by the young people, and to accomplish this end on Sunday preached an exceptionally pointed sermon with dancing as its theme, illustrating the various arguments by original cartoons which showed that the dance hall was an ante-room to destruction. Williamson was shaken to its centre, Mr. Stokes publicly told the minister that but for his sacred profession he would take great pleasure in blacking his eyes. The minister laughingly responded that he had seen the day when he had whipped men physically Stokes' superior for less. Mutual friends hushed the matter up and endeavored to reconcile all parties concerned.

Stokes stopped in front of the residence occupied by Mr. Wohl, several days later and while engaged in conversation with Mrs. Sarah Levine, of Richmond, Va., a visitor to Williamson, was ordered to move on from in front of the residence. Seemingly in a good humor, Stokes started to comply, when Minister Wohl, standing on the steps of his porch, angrily told him to hasten. Stokes stopped. Hot words passed, Wohl shouting "You lie!" advanced toward the yard toward his foe. As he faced him he drew from his hip pocket a revolver and levelled it at Stokes, who slowly retreated, though still facing the pistol. "You lie!" again shouted Wohl and as he did so pulled the trigger. Pierced through the left side, Stokes dropped to the sidewalk and in the fall drew his revolver and covered his assailant. Wohl shot again and simultaneously Stokes died. A crowd of people gathered. Wohl was dead. He had been shot through the brain. Stokes was seriously wounded. On the porch, where she had taken refuge, lay Mrs. Levine in a dead faint. Mr. Stokes refuses to say anything concerning the tragedy. Mr. Wohl was recognized as one of the most forceful and eloquent of Presbyterian ministers of this State. Mr. Stokes is a former President of Virginia University and comes from one of the best families of the Old Dominion.

WRECKS ON NEW ENGLAND COAST

Many Vessels Driven Ashore in the Eastern Gale.

Boston (Special).—Another Southern storm has swept over New England and gone the way of all such disturbances—straight off to the northeast, and, like hundreds of its energetic predecessors, left death and destruction in its wake. Just what it accomplished in New England can be summed up as follows: Five Gloucester fishermen drowned, six coasting schooners complete wrecks, nine vessels sunk, eight schooners ashore and eleven others more or less injured through collision and loss of gear.

The usual amount of damage occurred on land—buildings blown down, telegraph wires prostrated and some delays on railroads in the northern portion through heavy snows.

ENVOYS AT PEKIN AGREE.

Instructions Sent by Secretary Hay to Minister Conger.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—The State Department has been informed that the foreign Ministers at Peking reached an agreement which was submitted to the home Governments. Secretary Hay called Mr. Conger authorizing him to sign the agreement on behalf of the United States Government. On the basis of settlement the demand for the decapitation of the eleven princes is set aside. As to punishment, they are to be the severest that can be inflicted by the Chinese Government. As to indemnity, the Chinese Government is to formally admit its liability and then the matter is to be left for future negotiations.

PINGREE PARDONS GUARDSMEN

Generals Whit and Marsh to Pay \$5000 Each in Installments. Detroit, Mich. (Special).—Governor Pingree announced that he had pardoned both General W. L. White, former Quartermaster-General, and General A. F. Marsh, former Inspector-General of the Michigan National Guard, convicted of complicity in the State military clothing frauds, upon the payment of \$5000 fine by each, in annual installments of \$1000 each. White was committed to Jackson Prison Tuesday to begin the ten-year sentence imposed on the previous day. Marsh is under bonds pending appeal from his conviction.

THE NEWS EPITOMIZED

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

Consul Doty writes from Tahiti that the islands of Kum and Kimatara have been annexed by France.

Friends of Representative Boutwell of Maine, ill in an asylum, will introduce a bill to have him retired as a naval captain.

Lieutenant Lay H. Everhardt was appointed executive officer of the scholarship St. Mary's.

Senator Frye introduced the Ship Subsidy bill and addressed the Senate upon it.

The President offered the vacant Internal Revenue Commissionership to Joseph H. Manley, of Maine.

The Treasury Department, scandalized by the growth of Chinese smuggling, is making a special effort to stop it.

The twenty-seventh annual convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union opened in Washington.

OUR ADOPTED ISLANDS.

The Porto Rican House of Delegates was organized, Senor Manuel F. Rosy being elected Speaker. Governor Allen's message was well received.

Three complete drafts of a constitution for Cuba were submitted at Havana.

Twenty-two hundred natives took the oath of allegiance to the United States at Vigan, P. I.

Frigidier-General Hare reports that the natives on the Island of Samar, P. I., continue, on the approach of American troops, to burn their villages and flee to the mountains.

DOMESTIC.

Frank & Du Bois, brokers, of New York City, estimate that their trusted clerk, William M. Gates, robbed them of \$25,000.

Professor Clappert, former instructor at St. John's Military School, at Manlius, N. Y., was found dead at a hotel in Manlius. Death was due to natural causes.

William Wirt Henry, grandson of Patrick Henry, and a member of the Virginia bar, died at Richmond, Va.

H. M. Hanna, brother of Senator Hanna, has given the Lakeside Hospital, at Cleveland, Ohio, \$81,850.

The town of Nashville, Ark., had a \$100,000 fire, which originated in the Opera House, situated in a block of frame buildings.

Boston officials started a crusade against bucket shops and swindling "investment" companies.

Because the girls flirited with the medical students across the way, the Board of Education closed the West Side High School, at Chicago.

Professor F. A. Starr, of Chicago University, was nearly killed in attempting to board a street car.

General Randall is building a harbor of refuge at the mouth of Nome River by constructing a long and substantial breakwater.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court decided that it is illegal to sell liquor between the hours of 11 p. m. and 1 a. m. in the State.

Near Charleston, Penn., the mutilated body of a man washed up by the floods was exhumed. The police think it answers the description of George Hill, who has been missing two years.

The estate of the late Senator C. K. Davis, of St. Paul, Minn., will probably inventory between \$65,000 and \$75,000, exclusive of a valuable library.

The new church of the Sacred Heart was dedicated at Augusta, Ga., by Cardinal Gibbons.

By a shrewd trick thieves took over 50 head of cattle from Alfred McRoy's pastures in Indiana and shipped them to Chicago.

The body of Egbert Hill, a farmer residing in Griggs County, Georgia, was found in a field with a bullet hole in the back.

The steamship Centennial arrived at Port Townsend, Wash., from Nome with twenty-two Federal prisoners, to be sent to McNeill's Island.

Alexander Jackson, of Camden, Del., began distributing his fortune among deserving persons.

FOREIGN.

Eighty thousand invitations were issued for the great papal ceremony in St. Peter's, at Rome, of the closing of the holy year. The function occurs at midnight, December 31.

The Queen's speech declared the present session of Parliament was called solely to provide money for the army.

Stewards of the London Jockey Club decided not to grant a license to "Tod" Sloan, the American jockey, to ride next year.

The President of Santo Domingo urged reciprocity with the United States in his message to Congress.

Consequent upon a rumor of the "ope" having undergone an operation, a reassuring semi-official statement has been made at Rome that his health is perfect.

The French Government will offer a buy for the National Gallery in the Luxembourg Palace a number of the pictures by American artists in the Paris Exposition.

The Bulgarian Cabinet has resigned, owing to Ministerial differences.

The convalescence of the Czar is following a favorable course.

Former President Kruger, of the Transvaal, will await the Czar of Russia's recovery before trying to see him.

Consul-General Stowe, of Cape Town, arrived at London on his way home. He gives the Boer war four months to end.

A DIVISION OF MILLIONS

Cornelius Vanderbilt Left an Estate Appraised at \$72,500,000.

Residuary Share of Alfred Will Be \$44,500,000 — Handsome Gift For the Other Heirs.

New York City (Special).—The estate left by the late Cornelius Vanderbilt is valued at \$72,500,000. Of this \$52,500,000 is personal and \$20,000,000 real property. As much of the property is in stocks and bonds the valuation is made on Wall street's closing prices of the day Mr. Vanderbilt died, in September, 1899. It is much greater now—fully twenty per cent. On the basis of the official appraisal, Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, as residuary legatee and head of the house of Vanderbilt, will receive as his share of the estate \$44,500,000.

Mr. Hasbrouck, legal representative of the State Controller, made this statement: "We have fixed the valuation of the personal property of the late Cornelius Vanderbilt at \$52,500,000. I represent the State, and my fight has been for as high a tax as this State is entitled to under the law. I am glad at last to say that an agreement has been reached with Anderson & Anderson, representing the heirs of Cornelius Vanderbilt, and the controversy is ended."

The breaking of the continued deadlock over the estate was brought about at a conference held a few days ago, at which it was decided that rather than make a fight in the courts to sustain their claims as to valuation the executors would accept the figures fixed by the representatives of the State Controller, Mr. Hasbrouck.

Executors of the Vanderbilt estate have held that the personal property of the estate should be valued at \$49,226,855.96. This would have made the aggregate transfer tax to be paid to the State \$399,258. By his determined stand the attorney for the State Controller has increased this tax to \$520,000.

Charles D. O'Connell, State Appraiser, announced that the figures agreed upon by the lawyers for the State and the estate were satisfactory to him. The Vanderbilt millions will be apportioned among the heirs before the holidays and will constitute the richest Christmas present ever distributed to the members of any family in the world.

The estate will be distributed among the heirs in the following manner: Alfred Vanderbilt's share, \$44,500,000, of which he receives as residuary legatee, \$37,000,000; Cornelius Vanderbilt, \$7,500,000; legacies to Gladys and Reginald, each, \$7,500,000; Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, the widow, \$2,000,000, and the remainder of the millions will be apportioned among the friends of the late Cornelius Vanderbilt who were remembered in his will, executors, charities, servants, etc.

EAGAN RESTORED AND RETIRED.

President Remits the Unexpired Term of His Suspension.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Brigadier-General Charles P. Eagan, Commissioner General, U. S. A., sentenced by court-martial to dismissal from the army for abusive language to General Nelson A. Miles, his superior, and whose sentence was commuted by the President to five years' suspension from duty, with pay, was restored to duty, and at once placed on the retired list.

The order issued by the President remitted the unexpired portion of his sentence and restored him to a status of duty with station in this city. This was immediately followed by one issued by General Miles, announcing that General Eagan had been placed on the retired list on his own application after thirty years' service.

General Funston Rout's Filipinos.

General Funston sends to Manila an account of a two-hours' fight in the woods of Santo Domingo, P. I., between an American force and 300 rebels commanded by Sandico. The American force, consisting of thirty native scouts, commanded by Lieutenant Jernigan, attacked the rebels, who retreated, leaving on the field sixteen men killed, including the rebel leader Aguilar and an American negro. Not one of Jernigan's men was wounded.

Famous Composer Dead.

Mr. Henry Russell, composer of over 800 songs, including "A Life on the Ocean Wave," and "Cheer, Boys, Cheer," died in London England. He was born at Cherrness, December 24, 1813.

Prominent People.

King Oscar of Sweden is steadily improving in health.

Queen Victoria, it is understood, will go to Cimiez in the spring.

Theodore Roosevelt is going to Colorado this winter for a hunting trip.

The German Crown Prince promises to become one of the finest shots in Europe.

Senator Hanna says positively that he will never again be a candidate for a public office.

Dr. D. K. Parsons, the philanthropist of Chicago, will give \$50,000 to Colorado College.

A Chicago musician who is alleged to have fallen heir to a title and a big fortune considerably notifies an interested world that there will be no "hot time in the old town to-night."

THE SILVER EGG.

A silver spoon held over a tallow-candle soon receives a coating of black. If this same spoon with its coating of lampblack be plunged into a vessel of water, says the Scientific American, a very curious thing will happen. The spoon will no longer appear black, but metallic. When it is removed from the water, however, we find, contrary to our supposition, that the coating of lamp-black has not been washed away. The phenomenon can be readily explained. The water cannot penetrate the layer of the black, therefore merely adapts itself to the shape of the spoon without coming in contact with the metal, and reflects light as perfectly as a mirror.

The experiment in a modified form can only be performed in the following manner. An egg is held over a candle or, preferably, a smoky petroleum lamp until it is completely coated with lampblack. When placed in a vessel of water the egg will have a metallic sheen, and will appear to have been silvered over. When removed from the water, however, it immediately becomes black again.

Shears in a steel mill in Coatesville, Pa., cut a slab of iron four feet wide and two feet thick at one stroke.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY.



Central Time at Jacksonville and Savannah. Eastern Time at Other Points. Schedule in Effect May 6th, 1900.

Table with columns for 'NORTHBOUND', 'MIXED', and 'SOUTHBOUND' routes, listing stations and times. Includes routes like Jacksonville (Fla.) to Savannah (Ga.) and Savannah (Ga.) to Jacksonville (Fla.).

SLEEPING CAR SERVICE.

Excellent daily passenger service between Florida and New York. Nos. 31 and 32—New York and Florida Express. Drawing-room sleeping cars between Augusta and New York.

Fullman drawing-room sleeping cars between Port Tampa, Jacksonville, Savannah, Washington and New York.

Fullman sleeping cars between Charlotte and Richmond. Dining cars between Charlotte and Savannah.

Nos. 35 and 36—U. S. East Mail, through Pullman drawing-room buffet sleeping cars between Jacksonville and New York and Fullman sleeping cars between Augusta and Charlotte.

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